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# PHILIPPINES

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## STATEMENT

by

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First Secretary and Legal Adviser  
Philippine Mission to the United Nations

On

**Agenda Item 80**

**Status of the Protocols Additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions  
and relating to the Protection of Victims of Armed Conflicts**

**before the**

**Sixth Committee  
67<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
United Nations General Assembly**

Conference Room 2, NLB,  
United Nations, New York  
22 October 2012

## STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

### ***Item 80 – Status of the Protocols Additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and relating to the Protection of Victims of Armed Conflicts***

Monday, 22 October 2012 (10:00 AM)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It has been thirty years since the 37<sup>th</sup> session in 1982, when at the request of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, this item was included in the agenda of the General Assembly.

We thank the Secretary-General for his report in document A/67/182 on the status of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions and the measures taken to strengthen international humanitarian law.

The Philippines acceded to the Geneva Conventions sixty years ago in 1952. We signed both Additional Protocol I and Additional Protocol II in 1977. In 1986, we ratified Protocol II.

Since the last consideration of this agenda item two years ago, the Philippines ratified Protocol I, or on 30 March 2012, to be exact.

This milestone was a natural progression of the signing into law, on 11 December 2009, of Republic Act No. 9851, also known as the *Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide, and Other Crimes Against Humanity*. This law incorporates many of the obligations of international humanitarian law into the domestic law of the Philippines.

Mr. Chairman, it is the duty of every state to exercise criminal jurisdiction over those responsible for international crimes. The law, and our ratification of Protocol I – together with our ratification last year of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court – are but our latest contributions to ending impunity in the commission of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.

At the same time, the law reiterates our commitment to ensuring that the rights of the accused are respected.

The international community can, therefore, be assured of the Philippines' unwavering commitment to promoting and supporting international humanitarian law.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.